



# Success Stories



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## Grant Money and Volunteer Refurbish ATV Trail

Building on a previous grant of \$128,000 written by Mike Babusci and awarded to the Three Rivers Competition Riders in 1999 to reconstruct portions of the Marienville ATV and Motorcycle Trail, Mike again applied for and was awarded nearly \$87,000 on behalf of TRCR to reconstruct another portion of the Marienville Trail known as the Penoke Boardwalk.

Unlike the 1999 grant project, where the Forest Service acted as the lead agency and TRCR functioned in the support role, Mike Babusci and the TRCR agreed to prepare, administer and award the Penoke Boardwalk contract as well as provide in-kind services to meet the labor match.

This represented the first time the Forest Service has partnered with a volunteer trail user group to prepare, administer and award a construction contract on a Forest Service facility.

Babusci was asked to interface directly with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) on behalf of the Forest Service regarding the administration of the grant. He was also responsible (subject to the supervision and approval of the Forest Service) for develop-



*This stretch of the Marienville ATV and Motorcycle Trail was refurbished in late 2001, and additional work is underway.*

ing the construction specifications, preparing the contract bid documents, awarding the bid, managing the contract, and conducting the final inspection.

This unprecedented level of involvement is a testament to the close working relationship that Babusci and the TRCR has been able to forge with the Forest Service over the many years of providing volunteer trail maintenance service.

The Forest Service lent its support and guidance in resolving some of the technical issues and they met their matching obligation by purchasing the construction material for the project.

The boardwalk was completed ahead of schedule and significantly under budget in November 2001. The DCNR has agreed to re-allocate the remaining funds left in the Penoke Boardwalk project for trail reconstruction along the approaches to the boardwalk.

Under Babusci's leadership, this improvement project is a clear example of how interagency cooperation combined with active trail user participants can lead to successful, environmentally sensitive, trail implementation projects.

This coalition of two public agencies, a philanthropic organization, and a trail user group succeeded in upgrading 14 miles of trail which represents more than 25 percent of the largest ATV/Motorcycle trail facility in the state. Nearly \$270,000 was allocated to this improvement project.

The re-routed trail is providing users with a more enjoyable recreational experience. The reconstruction of the trail tread, the installation of soil stabilization blocks, and the reconstruction of Penoke Boardwalk will minimize the future maintenance needs for the Forest Service.

Requiring the contractor to use equipment that left a minimal "footprint" helped the areas adjacent to the trail to recover quicker from the effects of construction, thereby minimizing the impacts to the Forest's ecosystem.

Finally, having a user group actively participate in the project gave them a sense of ownership and pride in the trail and it provided them a way by which they could feel they were able to "give something back" to the trail community.

*For more information contact Janeal Hedman at (814) 723-5150, ext. 200*

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## Chequamegon Bay Rendezvous a Success

Bonjour!

Welcome to the 2003 Chequamegon Bay Rendezvous at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center. The Wisconsin Heritage Connection teamed up with the Forest Service and the Wisconsin Historical Society to host this event June 20-22.

The Rendezvous is a reenactment of an event that was held annually during the fur trade era of the 1700s, at which fur traders and Voyageurs gathered to display and trade their goods. Due to the demand for beaver fur for top hats, coats, and robes in Europe, the French—and later the British—operated fur trade companies that hired men to paddle large birch bark canoes across the Great Lakes. These men, called Voyageurs, traded with Native Americans for precious fur pelts.

The men were small in stature, so they did not take up much room in the canoes, yet strong, so they could keep up with paddling. It was important to the Bourgeois that the Voyageurs did not know how to swim. This would ensure that they would do anything possible to stay upright in the canoe, an insurance policy to the owner of the cargo.

The Voyageurs were on the water for months at a time, with eight thousand pounds of trade goods, paddling up to 18 hours a day. The Rendezvous marked the halfway point of their voyage. There they traded goods, which consisted mainly of objects crafted from metal such as guns, knives, pots, and jewelry for beaver pelts that the Native Americans trapped.

This annual event was also an excuse for the Voyageurs to relax, meet up with old friends, tell tall tales and celebrate. There were knife and tomahawk throwing contests, dancing and singing, and food other than pork fat and beans, which was the Voyageurs diet when out on the water.

The Chequamegon Bay Rendezvous is an educational experience for visitors that demonstrates what life was like in the fur trade era. It is also an excellent opportunity to interpret the concept of sustainability and the effects of early resource exploitation.

Current day fur traders from around the country set-up to trade their goods, tested their skills in knife and tomahawk throwing competitions or shot their black powder muskets and bow and arrows. Visitors were treated to fur-trade era music and samples of traditional foods.

Forest Service employees Angela Vlies and Evan Miller dressed as Voyageurs and captivated visitors throughout the Rendezvous with Voyageur stories. La Petite Angelique (Angela Vlies) brought the history of the Rendezvous to life from the visitor center's five-story observation tower overlooking the encampment.

Jacque La Roche (Evan Miller) stood watch over a 34-foot Canot dumaitre (Voyageur freighter canoe) at the entrance to the encampment demonstrating the life of the Voyageur.

Over eight hundred visitors took in the Rendezvous. This event also serves to link visitors with the historic, cultural, and natural resources of the Northern Great Lakes region.

"There is no life so happy as a Voyageurs life," a Voyageur once said. This quote supports the impression visitors experienced at the Rendezvous encampment that being a Voyageur was not about having a job . . . it was a way of life.



*Voyageur Jacque La Roche and the 34-foot Canot dumaitre "Dreamcatcher" took part in the program.*

*For more information contact Susan Nelson at (715) 685-9983*





## Students Aid Forest in Repairing Damage

The historic Illinois Iron Furnace and developed picnic site was recently the focus of a cooperative effort between the Golconda Job Corps Center (GJCC) and the Forest Service.

In May, the site had logs and debris left behind as a result of the sudden rise and fall of Big Creek, a nearby stream. The rising water washed picnic tables, trash bins and debris all around the site. GJCC students removed the debris from the area, and returned the tables and trash bins to their original locations.

Built around 1837, the Iron Furnace, located on the Vienna/Elizabethtown Ranger District in Hardin County, is the only remaining iron furnace structure in the state of Illinois.

Iron was manufactured at the Illinois furnace by the charcoal blast method. The furnace has a dry laid foundation with the exterior consisting of large limestone blocks quarried near Cave-In-Rock, Illinois.

The furnace is said to have yielded nine tons of pig metal every twenty-four hours. The iron castings called pigs were transported to Elizabethtown, along the Ohio River. From there it was shipped to manufacturers. Rebuilt and enlarged in 1856, the furnace continued to operate until 1861. It is said the furnace operated sporadically between 1872 and 1879. The current furnace was reconstructed in 1967.

This venture provided a good community service learning experience for the students and enhanced the recreation experience of visitors to the Illinois Iron Furnace, a site included as part of the Ohio River Scenic Byway.



*Debris littered the site of the Iron Furnace on the Shawnee NF.*

*For more information contact Rebecca Lampert at (618) 287-2201*

## Public Weighs in on Wayne Forest Plan Alternatives



*Small groups discuss themes for the Wayne's alternative management schemes during day-long sessions.*

Amidst a myriad of feelings the Wayne National Forest successfully conducted three public collaborative learning workshops on the last Saturday of October and the first two Saturdays of November of this year to gather information for developing alternatives for the revision of the Forest Plan.

The day-long workshops were held in Akron, Brookville and Athens, Ohio, starting each Saturday. More than 100 members of the public with many different views of how and for what their national forest should be managed attended.

When each workshop participants registered, they were provided with folders that contained materials to be used throughout the day. Forest Supervisor Mary Reddan welcomed the participants before turning the agenda over to the planning team. The purpose and process of the workshop was discussed and then the participants broke up into small groups. The groups decided what theme or themes they would discuss and selected a recorder to write down their thoughts.

Forest Planner Robert Gianniny and Public Affairs Officer Gary Miller initiated the workshops after attending a collaborative learning session last spring. Collaborative learning is a useful tool when a situation is complex and controversy is inevitable because the publics have fundamentally different values. This tool provides a way for making the problem meaningful and provides a learning opportunity, as the public members talk with one another, face-to-face, about their individual values, orientations, and priorities.

The Plan Revision Team has received favorable follow-up comments from several of the workshop attendees. One gentleman dropped by the Marietta Ranger District Unit office to say, "When the format of the meeting was presented I did not like it because of doubts about its effectiveness. I reversed my opinion after the group sessions. I thought the small groups were very effective."

*For more information contact Connie Roberts at (740) 592-6644*





# Ghost Town Explored on the Allegheny

For the fourth year consecutive year, the Marienville District of the Allegheny National Forest has teamed up with local historians to provide the Arroyo Ghost Town Day tour.

Ghost Town Day started in 2000, after an out-of-control campfire led to some interesting archaeological discoveries. A campfire that had smoldered for several days in “a sawdust pile” was brought to the attention of Amanda Glaz, an archaeologist on the Marienville District. There was supposed to be an archaeological site there, but there was very little information documented about it in the files – so what was really there?

With the help of local historians John and Bob Imhof, research was finally conducted on this nearly forgotten site. Believe it or not, what was there was a genuine ghost town.

Arroyo had been home to a few early sawmills, typical of the area, but its “claim to fame” was the tannery and the town that sprang up because of it. There had been some industry and settlement in the area since the 1830s, and then the tannery came along in 1880. The company town had a school, a church, two stores, and about 30 homes lined up along the road.

The Imhof brothers had both spent years researching the logging railroad systems on the Allegheny, and they teamed up with the archaeologist to walk many miles of railroad grade and observe many locations of former logging camps.

These types of sites generally included few artifacts and are most likely identified by a change in vegetation or slight differences in the ground surface, where the railroad ties had once sat. Arroyo was like nothing they had ever come across before. This was big, substantial, and even spectacular. They almost didn’t know where to begin.

The tannery closed in the 1920s, the residents moved out and buildings were removed shortly thereafter. Was there anyone out there that remembered this town – a town that no one has lived in for almost 80 years?

Fortunately, John Imhof was able to uncover actual photographs of the site. From one or two photos, the researchers started to figure things out. The residential side of the street was pretty obvious – small foundations made of cut sandstone, sugar maples lining the street, even a lilac still growing in what was once somebody’s yard.

The tannery was situated on a strip of land between the road and the Clarion River. The steep hillsides surrounding the town were also obvious.

But it all started with one boulder in the river. Holding up the old photo, they recognized the boulder in the river – it was a match! From there, they started matching up the building foundations on the site with the buildings in the photo.

The Clarion, like other rivers, was once the focus of industrial development, especially the logging industry. When the tannery was operating, it utilized vast amounts of hemlock bark to produce the tannic acid used in tanning leather.

This bark was hauled in on the rail cars from many origination points on the Allegheny. In that era, logging railroad systems reached deep into the forest to bring out raw materials. Much of the Forest was practically clear-cut, as hemlock was its major component.

The closing of the tannery in the 1920s coincides with the depletion of the hemlock, the beginning of the conservation era, and the development of rubber and synthetics that would take the place of leather in its industrial applications. With such an interesting site – including its industrial history and human stories, and the wonderful foundation remains on the landscape – something had to be done! What more could an archaeologist ask for?

With John and Bob Imhof leading the way on researching the site and promoting interest in local history, the Forest Service agreed to allow limited interpretive tours at the site. Ghost Town Day is held each October, partly as a Pennsylvania Archaeology Month event.



*Ghost Town Day on the Allegheny NF focused on an abandoned manufacturing town deep inside the Forest.*

*For more information contact Bill Massa at (814) 723-5150, ext. 211*



# Midewin Celebrates Public Lands Day

On September 20, 120 volunteers and 16 staff members came out to the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie to lend a hand in the nation's biggest volunteer day—National Public Lands Day. Workers participated in a variety of projects that were coordinated with the day in mind.

Acting Volunteer Coordinator for the Department of Natural Resources and Midewin NPLD Coordinator Cindy Klein worked with Midewin staff to create projects that would be both beneficial to the Prairie and interesting to the volunteers.

From railroad tie removal, seed-bed harvesting, and Prairie Creek cleanup to digging for a little history, volunteers eagerly put themselves to the test. According to Klein, more than two tons of trash was collected by 10 volunteers in Prairie Creek, and two miles of abandoned rail line were cleared of debris by another 10 volunteers.

The creek volunteers were especially proud of the two refrigerators and many tires they liberated from Prairie Creek in Midewin's newest addition to the Prairie at Morgan Woods.

With six projects running from 9 am to 2 pm, workers definitely built up their appetites. Thanks to the Midewin Tallgrass Prairie Alliance, breakfast goodies and refreshments were provided to kick off the day and ExxonMobil wrapped it up with a picnic lunch for the NPLD workers.

Recreation Technician and Safety Coordinator Jesse Lovelace ran the rail-tie clean-up, along with Public Affairs Specialist Amanda Dworak. Lovelace said that the project helped prepare the area for the restoration of Middle Grant Creek, and he definitely saw a good level of participation.

"It was hard work moving the heavy ties and debris," he said. "They did good."

At the other volunteer sites, you would have thought there was a reward for the most volunteered project between Horticulturist Eric Ulaszek's Seed Harvesting and Archaeologist Michael Rizo's "Our Prairie Home" dig, where 78 volunteers participated.

The River Road harvesting project proved very productive with 250 pounds of seed collected and 70 feet of seed beds weeded. The last day of the "digging for history" Passport in Time project served as an excellent outlet for volunteers' curiosity about archaeology.

"There were lots of folks out here and they all seemed very excited, they had their hands full in a positive way," said Enid Erickson, Midewin's NEPA Coordinator. "They were wide-eyed, bushy-tailed and ready to go."

National Public Lands Day not only brought in helping hands, but gave Midewin a chance to showcase the many restoration efforts here at the Prairie.



*National Public Lands Day volunteers worked up a hearty appetite following the morning's activities on the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie outside Chicago.*

*For more information contact Betsy Lopez at (815) 423-6370*





## Local Job Corps Students Repair Trail



*Students and Instructor Humble from the Golconda Job Corps Center's (GJCC) Masonry Program pose for a group photo.*

Dedicated Golconda Job Corps Center masonry students, along with their exceptional instructor and the Forest Service recreation staff, worked together to complete a successful project on the Shawnee National Forest.

The determination and dedication of students and Instructor Humble from the Golconda Job Corps Center's (GJCC) Masonry Program teamed with the Forest Service to repair a popular trail at the Garden of the Gods recreation area in southern Illinois this fall.

The scenic quarter-mile developed recreation trail within the Shawnee on the Vienna/Elizabethtown Ranger District.

Due to the high volume of traffic along the Garden of the Gods flagstone trail, stones occasionally loosen and chip due to normal wear and tear. Maintenance was needed to repair and restore the flagstone on this trail and rehabilitate the surface for safe hiking. The masonry students, under the leadership of their instructor, worked diligently to return the trail to its original condition.

The Forest Service appreciated the trail restoration assistance, and the GJCC masonry instructor had the opportunity to use this recreation site trail as an outdoor classroom, giving his students a job training opportunity. Working on the trail maintenance project was an experience where the students were able to interact with Forest Service employees, the local community and the public visiting the area.

Acting District Ranger Jeff Seefeldt expressed the Forest's gratitude for the GJCC work on the trail in a letter to Center Director David Floyd. In the letter, he commended Mr. Humble for the excellent job he did of leading the students and insuring their safety.

Visitors and local residents have also expressed their gratitude to GJCC for making the area more user friendly by providing a safe recreational opportunity. The completion of this project is a great example the determination and dedication of partners working together to improve the forest experience for visitors.

*For more information contact Jeff Seefeldt at 618-287-2201*

## Hunters Take Aim in Deer Management Program

The Allegheny National Forest successfully completed issuing more than 12,000 antlerless deer coupons during August and September 2003 as part of Pennsylvania's first-ever public lands Deer Management Assistance Program designed to help qualified landowners achieve the type of deer harvest they require to manage their properties.

In cooperation with the Pennsylvania Game Commission, outdoor organizations and many local license issuing agents throughout a four-county area, the Forest Service and its Kinzua Quality Deer Cooperative partners processed more than 10,000 applications and mailed 12,000 coupons in a 10-week span to enable hunters to take advantage of this novel Keystone State hunting opportunity.

Applications from prospective hunters were received from 35 states, plus the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

*For more information contact Janeal Hedman at (814) 723-5150, ext. 200*



*The Allegheny's Brad Nelson weighs a deer at one of the deer check stations.*





## Digging Through History on the Green Mountain

The haunting presence of small family and neighborhood burial grounds in now-remote locations in the Green Mountains provokes comment and curiosity among visiting hikers and locals alike.

Once maintained by descendants and neighbors, these marble, slate, and granite (and at least one zinc!) headstones and monuments are reminders of the extensive 19th century land-use patterns of this area and the families who once lived here.

The cemeteries are victims to the same wide-spread abandonment of the Western New England uplands that led large numbers of folks to move closer to depots, markets and floodplains, or “out West,” and set the stage for the establishment of the Green Mountain National Forest in 1932.

For the last five years, the Green Mountain’s “Remember Me As You Pass By” Passport In Time project has attracted volunteers from as far away as Texas and Oregon, and numerous points closer, to hike up to and work on these cemeteries for a week during Vermont foliage season.

Yes, sampling the maple syrup, fresh apples, cider donuts and craft fairs while leaf-peeping is tough duty, but **SOMEbody** has to do it!

Our 8-10 person crew clears brush and dead trees, rebuilds stone walls, scrapes and paints wrought iron fences, and cleans, records, mends and re-erects the headstones and monuments that have suffered the wear-and-tear of Vermont winters and the loneliness of abandonment.

In addition to the hands-on work, we also spend some limited time in town halls researching the family histories of those buried here, and we have guest speakers and experts who convey information on genealogical research, historic stone carvers, methods of monument repair, and more. We also have at least one field trip to a relevant museum or quarry during the week.

Ultimately, we hope to see the condition of these cemeteries improve to a point where the maintenance required should be fairly routine. We would also like to do some minimal signing, and develop an informational map/brochure providing directions and some history of these sites so the public can access them as a hiking destination.

Our biggest problem to date has been the overwhelming number of applications through the PIT Clearinghouse—our 2003 project had 82 individuals applying for only eight slots!



*Passport in Time volunteers spruce up some old headstones at the Martin Cemetery deep in the Green Mountain National Forest in Vermont.*

*For more information contact David Lacy at (802) 747-6719*

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